ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A system to provide a multipoint processing terminal and a multicast bridging

terminal to provide mixing, switching, and other processing of media streams under the

control of H.323 components.   Application Programming Interfaces defined for the

5   multipoint processing terminal provide a multipoint control unit with the capability to

change the default behavior of the multipoint processing terminal by allowing the

multipoint control unit to control the routing audio and video streams in the multipoint

processing terminal and control the media formats in a multipoint conference. Multipoint

processing acceleration functionality is provided by providing interfaces to allow

10   hardware accelerated implementations of multipoint processing terminals. The multicast

bridging terminals enables clients using one type of control signaling and media

streaming to join other conferences using different types of control signaling and media

streaming by receiving audio or video data from an incoming media stream and

performing any processing necessary to transform the media stream from the incoming

15   stream data format to the outgoing stream data format.